

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Alcore Inc.

Maryland Technology Extension Service

Facility Consolidation Leads To More Efficient Manufacturing At Alcore

Client Profile:

Alcore, established in 1992, manufactures aluminum and other honeycomb cores for the commercial aircraft industry. In June of 2001, the Edgewood, Maryland-based company became a subsidiary of M.C. Gill Corporation. Alcore employs less than 250 people.

Situation:

Alcore planned to consolidate two of its facilities into the facility located at Lakeside Business Park in Edgewood, Maryland. The company wanted to organize its new plant according to the principles of lean manufacturing, but needed help designing such a facility. Alcore contacted the Maryland Technology Extension Service (MTES), a NIST MEP network facility, for assistance.

Solution:

MTES discussed Alcore's consolidation plan with the company management team, and then reviewed the current product flows within each existing facility. MTES created three concept facility layout drawings for Alcore's consideration, which the company compared to its previous facility layout drawings. The MTES drawings utilized a product-based approach that minimized travel distance and improved flow. The original company designs took a more traditional, functional approach. MTES presented the three recommended layout options to the company management team, followed by a discussion to compare and evaluate layout options.

Alcore selected one of the MTES concept layout designs as its template. Based on discussions during a review meeting, MTES made slight modifications to the selected design option, and then forwarded the revisions to Alcore for subsequent detail planning and design. By utilizing the product-based facility design proposed by MTES, the company will be in a position to effectively implement the appropriate lean techniques that will result in shorter lead-times, improved quality, decreased product travel distance, improved space utilization, and reduced material handling, along with the elimination of additional non-value-added activities or wastes.

Results:

Designed facility consolidation layout.

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Planning to implement lean techniques throughout the facility.

Testimonial:

"We have utilized the services of the Maryland Technology Extension Service frequently over the past several years with great satisfactions and excellent results."

Alan Baldwin, CEO